

We Believe ... That There Is A God

Let me ask some basic questions:

- Does God exist?
- Is Christianity credible?
- Is it reasonable to believe the Bible?
- Are the scriptures reliable for mankind?

Have these questions ever crossed your mind? In fact, they should! You don't have to be a skeptic or an agnostic to ask such questions. At some point we all must come to grips with these fundamental basics of faith. We must look for the evidence that convinces us one way or the other. That's what our Bible classes and other studies are intended to do -- to make us think about the foundation of our faith, to look for evidence, and to *"be ready always to give an answer to every man that asks you a reason of the hope that is in you"* **1 Pet 3:15**.

Where do we start? Simply with the most fundamental question of all:
DOES GOD EXIST?

THE NATURE OF OUR PROOF:

There is little formal argument in the Bible for the existence of God. That fact of God's existence is just assumed throughout the scriptures. Gen. 1:1 *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

But the existence of God can be proved to any fair-minded observer.

- This "Proof" is not of an empirical nature.
- But we can develop a strong *'prima facie'* case, and that is what we will attempt to do in this lesson.

CAUSE AND EFFECT

This law, simply stated, is "**every effect demands an adequate cause**". With this law in mind, consider the physical universe (an obvious 'effect')- What could be the 'cause'? There are only three choices:

1. The universe is eternal.
2. The universe is not eternal - it created itself.
3. The universe is not eternal - it was created by some force outside itself, and superior to it.

Which of these three is true?

1. **The Universe Is Eternal - No** - it is scientifically clear that the universe is not eternal: "**As a result of the most recent discoveries we say with a fair degree of confidence that our universe has not existed forever; that it began abruptly, without apparent cause, in a blinding event that defies scientific explanation.**" (Dr. Robert Jastrow, UNTIL THE SUN DIES, Warner Books, New York, 1977, pg 2)
2. **The Universe Is Not Eternal, It Created Itself. - No** - Nothing comes from nothing. There is no known natural process whereby matter could, from nothing, fashion itself. This is the very law of cause and effect.
3. **The universe is not eternal - it was created by some force outside itself, and superior to it. Yes** - This is the only alternative. The universe was created by something that:
 - a. existed before it did.
 - b. is superior to it.
 - c. is of a different nature.

That uncaused first cause is God! Note what the Bible says about this:

- **Hebrews 3:4** *For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God.*
- **Rom 1:18-20** *¹⁸For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, ¹⁹because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. ²⁰For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,*

DESIGN DEMANDS A DESIGNER

The universe is literally full of examples of an amazingly intelligent designer.

- The stars and planets
- The human body (**Psalms 139:14**)

The Bible uses this "Proof" - **Psalms 19:1-6** *The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork.²Day unto day utters speech, And night unto night reveals knowledge. ³There is no speech nor language Where their voice is not heard. ⁴Their line has gone out through all the earth, And their words to the end of the world. In them He has set a tabernacle for the sun, ⁵Which is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber and rejoices like a strong man to run its race. ⁶Its rising is from one end of heaven, and its circuit to the other end; And there is nothing hidden from its heat.*

MAN - A MORAL CREATURE

It is evident that all men possess a moral nature or conscience. Principles of right or wrong may be debated, but men everywhere have a sense of what is right.

- "It's my turn don't cut in front of me!"
- Even an incorrigible criminal demands good treatment and a fair trial.

How can this be explained without the concept of God? **Rom 2:14-15**
¹⁴for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, ¹⁵who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them)

MAN - A WORSHIPPING CREATURE

Wherever men have been found, in whatever time and place, they have been found to be worshipping something that they regarded as superior to themselves.

From whence did this universal tendency arise?

Conclusion

The overwhelming evidence points to the existence of God. Will you honestly weigh the evidence and reach this simple conclusion which reason demands?